
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District:	Washington Railway and Electric Company Garage	(x) Agenda
Address:	2112 Georgia Avenue NW	(x) Permit
Meeting Date:	April 25, 2013	(x) Raze
Case Number:	13-308	
Staff Reviewer:	Tim Dennée	

The applicant, Howard Town Center Developer LLC (Cohen Companies), lessee and agent for owner Howard University, requests the Board's review of an application to raze (R1300019) the entire former Washington Railway and Electric Company Garage.

The property is the subject of a pending application for landmark designation.

Evaluation

Pursuant to the preservation law, the landmark nomination must be reviewed first, to establish whether the Board will have jurisdiction to review the raze application.

With regard to historic landmarks, the stated purposes of the preservation law are to "retain and enhance... [them] and to encourage their adaptation for current use; and... [t]o encourage [their] restoration..." The demolition of a landmark is, by definition, inconsistent with its retention, and it renders impossible its adaptation or restoration.

If the subject property is designated a historic landmark, its raze is contrary to the purposes of the law.

Recommendation

If the property is designated a historic landmark, the HPO recommends that the Board recommend against issuance of a permit to raze the building, as such demolition would be contrary to the purposes of the preservation law.